the seven Round Tables, the Press Information Bureau made a special effort to bring in media persons from Delhi to cover the ceremonial adoption of the 150 recommendations prepared through consensus among the Panchayati Raj Ministers in the States and the Center to ensure effective Panchayati Raj in all parts of the country. This has given a somewhat higher level of exposure to the endeavours being made in this regard but, in relation to the significance of this endeavour to the people of rural India, media coverage still leaves a great deal to be desired.

World Bank loan for modernisation of fire services

1936. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank proposes to give Rs. 1,000 crore loan for modernisation of fire services in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the project and the agency that would monitor the project at the centre; and

(c) the amount that would be made available to Orissa for up-gradation of their infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Due amount of M/s Rockland leasing company Ltd.

1937. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made as per the judgement delivered on 5 th December, 2001, by Hon'ble Delhi High Court in which they had appointed a liquidator to release the money due to the victims of M/s Rockland leasing Company Ltd. after the sale of the company's assests;

(b) the list of recipients of this money, State-wise particularly in Himachal Pradesh as many Senior Citizens had deposited their all pensionary benefits with such companies; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to ensure fair implementation of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi had ordered for winding up the company on December 5, 2001 and an Official Liquidator was appointed. The final winding up Order in respect of the captioned company was passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi on March 4, 2003. Information about sale of the company's assets, repayment of claimants, if any is with the Official Liquidator who reports directly to the Hon'ble Court.

(b) Data reporting system of RBI does not generate the information.

(c) The Official Liquidator appointed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has the responsibility to ensure implementation of the Court's order as per the provisions of Companies Act, 1956.

Enquiry into Disinvestment of BALCO

†1938. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various employees' organisations have been demanding fair enquiry into the matter of disinvestment of Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO);

(b) if so, whether Government are considering an enquiry to make the sale of BALCO fair and transparent;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The sale of 51% of Government equity in BALCO to a Strategic Partner was considered by the Hon'ble Supreme Court which upheld the disinvestment in its judgement dated 10th December 2001. Subsequently, on the basis of complaints made by Trade Unions, a Fact Finding Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Labour, which has submitted its report. No substantiated

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.